

Lake Phalen Commonly Asked Questions?

When does Lake Phalen Open?

Lake Phalen Beach opens for swimming Memorial Day weekend; in fact most beaches open that weekend in the State Of Minnesota. Phalen Beach is open weekends only through June 13, 2007 and then everyday while Metro Area students are on summer vacation and lifeguards are available to work full time.

Is Lake Phalen safe to swim in?

Generally area lakes are safe to swim in the State of Minnesota. We recommend swimming in a life guarded area and that children are closely watched while visiting Phalen Beach in and out of the water. This can help you and others to have a positive experience when visiting Lake Phalen. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation also collects samples and tests the lake water weekly during the swim season to ensure that the water meets acceptable bacteria levels.

What do you look for when we take lake water samples?

The most current EPA recommendations for sampling are to test for the presence of Escherichia coli (E. coli). E. coli is one of the intestinal organisms found in warm-blooded animal wastes. It is therefore a good indicator of fecal contamination.

Under what conditions may Lake Phalen Beach close to the public?

There could be several factors that can cause bacteria levels to increase and Phalen Beach would be closed for public swimming. Some of the reasons for increased bacteria levels may be as follows: bather loads and bather practices; high water temperatures; bird droppings; animal wastes; rainfall and low lake levels. When lab results indicate increased levels of bacteria, such as E. coli, the City of Saint Paul staff has to determine what measures to take to protect the public health. These measures may include additional testing; chasing birds away; educating users on hygienic practices at the beach; grooming the beach; rounding up birds and the use of trained dogs. A result of high counts of bacteria counts would result in closing the beach for public use until test can prove it is safe to resume public swimming at Phalen Beach.

How often has the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation had to close the beach?

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation has never had to implement a closing of Lake Phalen Beach.

When is it safe to resume swimming at Phalen Beach?

The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation opens the beach as soon as it is safe to do so, but always keeping the public's health in mind. Once the beach is closed, authorities need to be sure that the bacteria levels have returned to safe levels before re-opening. Testing is repeated until the bacteria levels fall within an acceptable range within the EPA current guidelines.

Can you eat the fish caught in Lake Phalen?

Yes, fish are normally safe, if cooked properly.

How many miles is it around the walking path at Lake Phalen?

3.2 miles.

What is the surface area of water in Lake Phalen in acres?

198.80 acres

Can I use my motor boat on Lake Phalen?

Yes! You may have your boat in Lake Phalen but only an electric trolling motor is allowed.

What else can I do at Phalen Park?

We have the following activities: Sand Volley Ball, Lake Phalen Adventure Camp, Picnic area and Pavilion, Amphitheater, Playground, Golf Course and Boat Launch.